

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GENEVA 04688 221900Z

63

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 FRB-03 OMB-01 TAR-02

SWF-02 AGR-20 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 OIC-04

SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-02 DRC-01 /249 W

----- 080487

R 221655Z JUL 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7272

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS GENEVA 4688

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC, EGEN, UN

SUBJ: 57TH ECOSOC--ITEM 8--MULTINATIONAL
CORPORATIONS.

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DISCUSSION OF REPORT OF EMINENT
PERSONS CONTINUED JULY 19 WITH SOME 20 SPEAKERS. GEN-
ERALLY, THESE TOOK POSITION THEIR GOVERNMENTS HAD
INSUFFICIENT TIME TO STUDY SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF REPORT.
SOVIET UNION, CHINA, UGANDA AND TO SOME EXTENT ALGERIA,
HELD FORTH AT LENGTH ON NEFARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF MNCS
IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IRAN, JORDAN, FRG, BELGIUM
AND ALGERIA TOOK LINE THAT QUESTION OF WHAT KIND OF
MACHINERY SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO EMINENT
PERSONS AND SYG'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND WITH WHAT TERMS
OF REFERENCE NEEDED FURTHER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION
BEFORE COUNCIL TOOK DECISIONS. NETHERLANDS, YUGO-
SALVIA AND UGANDA CALLED FOR EARLY ACTION ON
MARHINERY. OTHR SPEAKERS, (SOVITE UNION, RUMANIA,
POLAND, CHINA, AUSTRALIA, SWEDEN, INDIA) TOOK NO CLEAR
POSITION ON THIS POINT. END SUMMARY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 GENEVA 04688 221900Z

2. WITH SPEAKERS CONCENTRATING LARGELY ON QUESTION OF PROCEDURE AND MARCHINERY FOR CONTINUING ATTENTION TO ACTIVITIES OF MNCS IN LDCS, ALL AGREED ON NEED FOR COUNCIL TO PLAY LEADING ROLE IN THIS FIELD. A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES (NETHERLANDS, SOVIET UNION, UASTRALIA, YUGOSLAVIA, UGANDA) SUPPORTED ANNUAL INCLUSION OF ITEM ON COUNCIL'S AGENDA. JHA, DURING SECOND INTERVENTION, GAVE RATIONALE FOR DOING SO, ALTHOUGH NOTING THAT AMOUNT OF TIME COUNCIL WOULD ACTUALLY WISH TO DEVOTE TO ITEM IN ANY GIVEN YEAR WOULD DEPEND ON WHAT THERE WAS TO DISCUSS AND WHAT PRIORITY COUNCIL WOULD WISH GIVE SUCH ITEM IN LIGHT OF OTHER MATTERS ON ITS AGENDA.

3. ALL SPEAKERS AGREED THAT COUNCIL WOULD NEED SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL MACHINERY AS PROPOSED BY EMINENT PERSONS AND SYG BUT DIFFERED ON HOW PRECISELY THIS MACHINERY SHOULD BE COMPOSED. ON NATURE OF PROPOSED SUBORDINATE BODY TO ECOSOC, SOME (NETHERLANDS, IRAN, INDIA) FAVORED A COMMISSION OF EXPERTS SERVING IN INDIVIDUAL CAPACITIES; OTHERS (YUGOSLAVIA, FRG, RUMANIA, AUSTRALIA, SWEDEN) PLUMBED FOR A COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES WHICH COULD BE OF REQUISITE EXPERTISE DEPENDING ON WHAT ASPECTS OF MNC OPERATIONS UNDER DISCUSSION. YUGOSLAVIA FELT THAT PROVISION COULD AT THE SAME TIME BE MDAE FOR REPRESENTATION OF MNCS, LABOR UNIONS AND CONSUMER GROUPS SO THAT COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE "MIXED CHARACTER". JHA STRESSED DESIRE OF EMINENT PERSONS TO AVOID HAVING BODY COMPOSED OF DIPLOMATS AND TO ASSURE THAT GROUP COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS INTERESTS, WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE GOVERNMENTS ("A MIXED BODY IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THE THINKING OF THE GROUP"). HOWEVER, HE FELT THAT ALL MEMBERS SHOULD BE "ON THE SAME LEVEL", AND THAT, SINCE MEMBERS FROM MNCS, TRADE UNIONS OR ACADEMIA COULD NOT REPRESENT THE WHOLE OF THEIR CONSTITUENCIES, GOVERNMENT PEOPLE SHOULD NOT SIT AS GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES.

4. GENERAL SUPPORT FOR INFORMATION AND RESEARCH CENTER LOCATED IN SECRETARIAT. IN THIS CONNECTION
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 GENEVA 04688 221900Z

SEVERAL SPEAKERS STRESSED NEED FOR SUFFICIENT INFORMATION ON MNC OPERATIONS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE, INDIA, FOR EXAMPLE, FELT THAT MNCS SHOULD BE INVITED TO FURNISH SYG WITH "MINIMUM DATA" AND SUGGESTED GOVERNMENTS MIGHT FURNISH INFORMATION ON MNC TAX RETURNS. YUGOSLAVIA INSISTED THAT CENTER BE FINANCED ENTIRELY FROM UN REGULAR BUDGET WITH NO VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS PERMITTED. IN DISTINCTION TO ITS POSITION ONEARLY

ESTABLISHMENT OF ECOSOC SUBORDINATE BODY ON MNCS, YUGOSLAVIA ARGUED FOR DELAY IN SETTING UP CENTER UNTIL 58TH ECOSOC OR EVEN AFTER THE 1975 SPECIAL GA.

5. DESEYNES, SPEAKING FOR FIRST TIME, EXPRESSED VIEW THAT COUNCIL WOULD BE UNABLE UNDERTAKE SERIOUS WORK WITHOUT SUPPORT OF SECRETARIAT INFORMATION/RESEARCH CENTER. STRESSED THAT IT WAS NOT SECRETARIAT INTENTION TO PRESS FOR MONOPOLY OF ACTIVITY IN THIS FIELD, NOTING WORK ALREADY BEING DONE BY ILO, UNCTAD. INTER-SECRETARIAT COORDINATING COMMITTEE WOULD BE FORUM CONCERNED WITH AVOIDING DUPLICATION AND ASSURING COOPERATION. ON QUESTION OF POSSIBLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES BY CENTER, DE SEYNES FELT THAT TA AND INFORMATION/RESEARCH COULD BE COMPLEMENTARY, ALTHOUGH HE ASSERTED THERE WAS NO INTENTION HAVE THE CENTER INTRUDE ON UNDP RESPONSIBILITIES. ON QUESTION OF KINDS OF TA THAT MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN, HE NOTED THAT IN PAST 3-4 YEARS UN HAD RECEIVED SOME 30 REQUESTS FROM GOVERNMENTS TO ASSIST IN EXAMINATION OF LEGISLATIVE/INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH MNCS AND FOREIGN INVESTORS GENERALLY MIGHT OPERATE, (E.G. MINING LAWS) AND THAT GOVERNMENTS HAD FOUND SUCH GENERAL ASSISTANCE USEFUL. ALSO UN HAD BEEN REQUESTED TO PLACE OFFICIALS/EXPERTS AT DISPOSITION OF LDC GOVERNMENTS TO WORK DIRECTLY ON PROGRAM FORMULATION IN FOREIGN INVESTMENT FIELD AND THUS HELP PUT RECIPIENT COUNTRIES IN BETTER POSITION TO UNDERTAKE NEGOTIATIONS WITH MNCS. ON MORE DELICATE QUESTION OF UN OFFICIALS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN LDCS AND MNCS, DE SEYNES SAID SYG SHARED CAUTION EXPRESSED BY SOME SPEAKERS (US). HOWEVER, DE SEYNES FELT THERE WERE POSSIBILITIES FOR EXTENDING

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 GENEVA 04688 221900Z

APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE, E.G., FURNISHING LDCS WITH LISTS OF INDIVIDUALS KNOWN FOR THEIR "INTERNATIONAL SPIRIT, OBJECTIVITY AND EXPERTISE" WHO MIGHT BE EMPLOYED DIRECTLY BY INTERESTED LDC GOVERNMENTS.

6. SEVERAL SPEAKERS STRESSED NEED FOR WORKING TOWARD MNC CODE OF CONDUCT. INDIA FELT SUCH CODE SHOULD ALY DOWN RESPONSIBILITIES OF HOME GOVERNMENTS TO ASSURE GOOD BEHAVIOR OF MNCS. ALGERIA TOOK POSITION IT WAS DUTY OF HOME GOVERNMENTS TO MONITOR MNC ACTIVITIES FOR THIS PURPOSE, OTHERWISE ALTERNATIVE LEFT TO LDCS WISHING TO ESCAPE FROM MNC IMPERIALISTIC ACTIVITIES WAS NATIONALIZATION.

7. DISCUSSION OF ITEM IN ECON COMMITTEE CONTINUES

JULY 22.ABRAMS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, MEETINGS, SPEECHES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GENEVA04688
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740198-0044
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740729/aaaaayyf.tel
Line Count: 170
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 OCT 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <17 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 57TH ECOSOC--ITEM 8--MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS.
TAGS: EGEN, ECOSOC, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005